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OLC 78-1306
10 March 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 10 March 1978 Conversation with HIRC Minority Consultant
Thomas Smeeton

STAT 1. [] During a telephone conversation on 10 March 1978 Thomas Smeeton, Minority Consultant, House International Relations Committee, said that Larry Sulc, on the Minority staff of the Subcommittee on International Organizations Korean Inquiry, had only just learned of recent Subcommittee efforts to secure "declassification" of CIA information.

STAT 2. [] Sulc is angry because he believes that he should have been involved in the negotiations between the Subcommittee staff and the Agency regarding public release of Agency information. I told Smeeton that we did not and could not involve ourselves in the internal affairs of the Subcommittee staff. Smeeton said that he understood this, and that Sulc's problems were, of course, with the Majority staff and not with the Agency. Smeeton said that Sulc would be calling me to inquire about the details of recent transactions between the Agency and the Subcommittee.

STAT 3. [] Smeeton said that the Subcommittee's open hearings were scheduled to begin on 15 March 1978. He said that opening day witnesses would include former State Department Korea Desk officer Donald Ranard, former Ambassador to South Korea William Porter, and the State Department's former Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs Marshall Green. Smeeton noted that "other aspects" of the hearings had apparently been moved back.

STAT 4. [] Smeeton emphasized that the Minority was becoming concerned over what it believed to be the increasingly partisan nature of the Subcommittee investigation.

STAT 5. [] I got the impression that Smeeton was trying to suggest that the Agency intervene in some way to ensure that the Minority staff got to participate more fully in the Subcommittee investigation. I reiterated several times during the course of the conversation that the Agency could not become involved in disputes between the Majority and Minority staffs. STAT

[]
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Aide Memoire

SUBJECT: New Department of Justice/Fraser Subcommittee Memorandum of Understanding

1. The DOJ/Fraser Subcommittee agreement does not purport to govern relationships between other agencies and the Subcommittee.

2. DOJ's understanding is that the two designated Subcommittee staff members will be Hershman and someone [REDACTED]

STAT

3. We can most easily avoid resuming dealings with [REDACTED] adopting the DOJ/Fraser agreement as the basis of our future relationship with the Subcommittee, and by telling Fraser that we will accept the same two designees agreed to by Justice. This would be the most logical way to proceed in any case. Before committing ourselves along these lines to Fraser, however, we should be sure to confirm the identities of the designees accepted by Justice.

STAT

4. The Fraser Subcommittee is not currently pressing us for any new documents. It does want to move ahead with interviews of [REDACTED] Angleton, Nelson, and Karamessines. We have to: (1) make clear that the interviews can be conducted only by the two designees, and (2) arrange for appropriate secrecy agreement releases, which in these cases should probably be signed by the DCI.

STAT

5. A complicating consideration involves the Minority staff's contention (see 10 March MFR attached) that it is being cut out of the action and that the investigation is becoming increasingly partisan. We obviously cannot tell Chariman Fraser that he should make a Minority staffer one of his designees, but we could mention the DOJ/Fraser agreement to Minority staffers Smeeton and Sulc in case they are not aware of it.

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